



**TOGETHER
NETWORK**⊕

**CHURCH
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Know Your Church, Know Your Neighbourhood

**A GUIDE TO USING THE SESSIONS
AND ACTIVITIES WITH A GROUP**



Introduction

Know Your Church, Know Your Neighbourhood (KYCKYN) helps churches think about themselves in relation to the local communities they seek to serve, and to make prayerful and informed decisions about their mission in those communities.

Through engaging with KYCKYN churches will:

- Develop a vision for their neighbourhood, as they begin to think about what a flourishing neighbourhood might look like and how God might be seen in it.
- Understand the place of their church within the community, as they think about and collect information on how their church looks, feels and interacts with people outside of the church.
- Learn about their local neighbourhood, finding out more about its strengths and needs through a process of collecting data and listening to local people and organisations.
- Develop an active response, as they prayerfully reflect on all they have learnt.

The sessions and activities can stand alone or be delivered together as a process over several sessions during a six-month period. There are also some tasks for the group to do in between these sessions.

Who should lead this?

It may be that an externally facilitated KYCKYN programme led by someone from outside the church, like a denominational local area staff member, is possible, and this can be a powerful tool to help people see the church from the outside in. However it is also possible for someone from within the church, lay or ordained, to lead the programme, and we have tried to make sure it is as easy to run as possible.

Whether one or more of the exercises are used, sharing findings with the church leadership and wider congregation is an important step. The church is then able to make prayerful and intentional decisions about how it wants to respond.

The KYCKYN activities can also be used as extension activities for churches that are using or have used the **Growing Good Toolkit** and want to dig deeper. The Toolkit helps churches start to think about growing new connections and making a difference in their community. Points of connection are indicated through the guide and activity pack.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY CUF®

Overview

This guide will help you prepare for and lead a group through the five sessions and activities that make up Know Your Church, Know Your Neighbourhood.

We provide an overview of the sessions and activities below but suggest that you look through the whole guide before starting to plan the first session.

KYCKYN Overview

SESSION 1:

Vision for a flourishing neighbourhood:

Establishing a shared vision for a community where everyone can thrive together.



Activity A: Prayer walk:

Observing the people, institutions and significant places in the neighbourhood and praying for them.



Activity B: Congregational survey:

Asking people about their involvement with the church, volunteering roles, gifts and skills.

SESSION 3:

Reflecting on learning and preparing for neighbourhood mapping:

Sharing insights about the church and developing a deeper understanding of the local community.



Activity C: Neighbourhood mapping:

Identifying significant local organisations, services and features of the local area.

SESSION 4:

Community listening:

Planning an effective community consultation.



Activity D: Community survey:

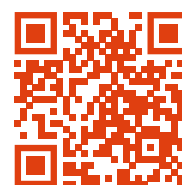
Hearing about the challenges and opportunities faced by local organisations and building new connections

SESSION 5:

Reflecting on all we've learned and planning next steps.



Sign up here to access the Growing Good Toolkit sessions: <https://growing-good.org.uk/>



Overview (continued)

Using all five sessions:

We recommend that the five sessions are delivered over a six-month period. Activities take place between sessions - some will require more time than others to plan and complete e.g. the congregational survey and the community consultation.

SESSION STRUCTURE:

Each session lasts approximately 2 hours and follows roughly the same format. Indicative timings are provided in each session guide to help you keep on track:

- Opening prayer
- Feed back from the last session/activity
- Introduction to the session theme
- Discussion on the session theme
- Planning for the next activity
- Prayer and reflection

Using the activities as individual tools:

The activities can be used as individual tools to support mission planning, prepare for community engagement and social action projects, or for church groups that have used **Growing Good Toolkit** and want to dig deeper.

For example, the neighbourhood mapping activity helps a church identify local organisations they may be able to support or partner with, and it may also reveal gaps in local services that the church could address with the local community.

Throughout this Guide, various icons are used to indicate different things. They are all shown and explained below:



Prayer



Introduction to the session



Planning



Feedback



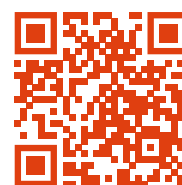
Case Study



Activity



Sign up here to access the Growing Good Toolkit sessions: <https://growing-good.org.uk/>



Tips for Facilitators

BEFORE EACH SESSION:

- Read through the session guide. It may also help to read ahead to the following session.
- Gather the resources required for the session.
- Photocopy/print extra copies of any templates required for the session.
- Consider inviting someone else to lead the opening prayer/closing reflection.

DURING EACH SESSION:

- Keep an eye on the suggested time allocation for each section.
- Make sure everyone is clear about the details of any activities that will take place between sessions.
- Confirm the date of the next session and any activities.



For more guidance on facilitating a group session see:
'A short guide to facilitation'

Contact us

If you have any questions about using the resources please contact us at: **hello@cuf.org.uk**

Acknowledgements

Know Your Church, Know Your Neighbourhood was originally designed and piloted by the Anglican Diocese of Birmingham as part of a pastoral skills module. It has since been developed by several organisations that are part of the Together Network - a network of Christian charities, convened by Church Urban Fund, that are committed to tackling poverty and transforming communities. Special thanks go to: The Diocese of Birmingham and Thrive Together Birmingham; Transforming Lives Together Chester; Transforming Notts Together.

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Session 1:

Vision for a Flourishing Neighbourhood

This session is about developing a shared vision of the type of community the group would like to live in – one that would see all sections of the community flourishing together.

SESSION OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this session, the group should have:

- A clearer understanding of their vision of a flourishing neighbourhood.
- Spent time reflecting on how God would be identified in that vision.

EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES:

- Paper and pens
- Envelopes
- Flip chart paper and pens
- Magazines and newspapers
- Scissors, glue/Sellotape
- **Activity guide:**
Reflective prayer walk

SESSION 1:

Time: 2 hours

OPENING PRAYER

[5 minutes]

Almighty and ever living God, as we come together in your name help us to understand our place in shaping and transforming this neighbourhood. Grant us your wisdom and the ability to see ourselves and others more clearly and to help our community to experience your amazing love. In Jesus' name. Amen.



INTRODUCTION TO KYCYN

[5 minutes]

Once the group is gathered, spend a few minutes explaining the process they are about to undertake or the objectives for this session.

- **Explain KYCKYN:** It is a facilitated process designed to help churches think about themselves in relation to the local communities they seek to serve, and to make prayerful and informed decisions about their mission in those communities.
- **Explain how the process will take place:** Explain the number of sessions/activities and roughly when they are expected to take place.
- Ask if anyone has any questions.



Session 1 (continued)

SETTING EXPECTATIONS

[10 minutes] Spend a few minutes talking about and recording people's expectations for this process.

- **What are people's hopes and fears?** Invite each person to quietly reflect on any hopes or fears they may have in relation to KYCKYN. This is an individual/personal task that will be re-visited in the final session. *(Usually, people will write these down and put them into a sealed envelope, which is collected by the facilitator and returned to them on the last session)*

IMAGINING A FLOURISHING NEIGHBOURHOOD

[40 minutes] The aim of this exercise is to encourage people to dream about what their neighbourhood would look like if it was truly flourishing.



- **Montage:** Split the group into smaller groups. Give each group a piece of flipchart paper and ask them to write, draw or stick pictures illustrating what a flourishing neighbourhood might look like. Use the following questions as prompts:
 1. What does a flourishing neighbourhood look like?
 2. How might God be identified in it? (They might want to identify scriptural references to answer this question.)
- **Discussion [10 minutes]:** Ask the groups to feedback what they have put on their montage.

PREPARING FOR THE NEXT ACTIVITY

[40 minutes] The next part of the session involves planning the activities that need to be done after this session (before the next session takes place if using all the sessions).



ACTIVITY A: Reflective Prayer Walk

1. **Prayer walk:** Explain what a prayer walk is – walking around your neighbourhood by yourself or in a group, praying and looking with fresh eyes at all that is around you.
 - This is also a useful opportunity to take photos of the neighbourhood. Discuss this with the group, making sure they understand that they should avoid taking photos of people without their permission.
 - Talk through with the group how to prepare for and carry out a prayer walk. Then encourage people to book a time in their diary when they will complete the prayer walk.
2. **Gathering information about the church:** Ask people to gather photos, newsletters, flyers and any written material about the activities that are run in the church, to bring along to the next session.



Session 1 (continued)

CLOSING REFLECTION

[10 minutes] Invite people to participate in a time of stillness and reflection. Read the words of the closing reflection and, if appropriate, ask people to respond in prayer.

Closing Reflection:

I dream of a world in which all the resources of the earth will be shared equally between all the people of the earth, so that even the most disadvantaged will be able to meet their basic needs with dignity and joy.

I dream of a great society of small communities co-operating to practise personal, social, economic, cultural and political integrity and harmony.

I dream of vibrant neighbourhoods where people relate to one another genuinely as good neighbours.

I dream of people developing networks of friendship in which the private pain they carry deep down is allowed to surface and is shared in an atmosphere of mutual acceptance and respect.

I dream of people understanding the difficulties they have in common, discerning the problems, discovering the solutions and working together for personal growth and social change according to the visionary agenda of Jesus of Nazareth.

And I dream of every church in every locality acting as a catalyst to make this dream come true.

Compassionate Community Work, Dave Andrews (2006), page 187



Session 2:

A church in and for the community

One of the key aims of this session is for the group to explore how their church might help its community flourish.

However, if the church is going to offer itself as a resource to the local neighbourhood, it needs to know enough about itself to be able to understand the contribution that it can offer. The group will develop a profile of the church and its congregation. The group will also begin to prepare a congregational survey.

SESSION OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this session, the group should have:

- Reflected on how their church presents itself and relates to its local community.
- Fed back to the wider group the information they have collected about the church after session 1.
- Started to plan their congregational survey.
- Agreed an approach to communicating what they are doing and to dealing with sensitive information.

EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES:

- Flip chart paper and pens
- **Activity guide:** Congregational survey

SESSION 2:

Time: 2 hours

OPENING PRAYER

[5 minutes]

Loving God, you have called us to be salt and light here in this community, and to seek its welfare, to plant and to build. Help us to see more clearly the gifts and strengths here, so that we may share with our community in the work that you would have us do. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



SESSION INTRODUCTION

[5 minutes]

Explore the session objectives together.



Session 2 (continued)

FEEDBACK FROM THE PRAYER WALK

[20 minutes]

Spend time discussing people's experience of conducting a prayer walk. You may find the following questions useful for starting a discussion (ensure positive feedback is included):

- How did you feel about your community?
- What did you notice?
- What surprised you?



CASE STUDY

[15 minutes]

Hand out or show people images of the [crucifix from St John's Horsham](#), asking:

- How do you feel about this crucifix hanging outside a local church?
- What does it say to the wider community about this church or church in general?

Then present them with the context (see [page 13](#)). Does this change their opinion?



HOW DOES OUR CHURCH COMMUNICATE WITH OUR COMMUNITY?

[40 minutes]

Invite people to share with the group all the materials that they have brought along about their church – photos, newsletters, flyers etc. Ask the group to look at the materials and to discuss the following questions:



1. How is our church perceived by others?

Think about the external appearance of your church and any associated buildings. Look again at the photographs you have brought with you and discuss your feelings with your group. Try to put yourself in the place of a visitor to the church, and consider the following:

- What does the outside of the building look like?
- What impression does it give?
- What do the notice boards say about us?
- What about the interiors of our buildings?
- Are our halls well maintained?
- Do our premises give a sense of welcome and hospitality?

2. How does the church relate to users of its premises?

3. Think about the organisations, events and activities that take place in your church's premises during the week.

Divide these into 3 lists:

- Organisations and events which you think are mainly connected with regular churchgoers
- Things which involve fringe churchgoers
- Things attended mainly by people who rarely or never come to church.

(continued overleaf)

Session 2 (continued)

HOW DOES OUR CHURCH COMMUNICATE WITH OUR COMMUNITY? (continued)

4. **Discuss what general literature comes through people's doors**
 - **What makes them pick up and read something rather than putting it straight into the recycling?**
- Is there any follow up by the church of families who have held weddings, baptisms or funerals there?
- What is the church already doing well?

PREPARING TO LISTEN TO OTHERS

[20 minutes]

- There are a couple of activities in the KYCKYN process that involve the group talking to and hearing from their congregations and people from their local community. They will need to think about how they communicate what they are doing and how they deal with any sensitive information they might gather. Split the group into twos to discuss the questions in the "Preparing to listen to others" activity on [page 18](#). Ask for feedback from the discussions.
- One of the main assets of our church is our congregation so as well as knowledge gathered about church activities, it is also important to know about the skills, interests and involvement of church members both within and outside of the church. The group will therefore conduct a survey with church members to ask a few questions.
- **Group Activity:** Share the template survey that can be used to gather information from church members about their voluntary activities. This can be carried out with the church congregation in different ways - some use it as a survey for the whole church to fill in and return, others use it as a tool for one-to-one conversations and encourage the church to have conversations with one another as they fill them in.
- As a group, spend time thinking through how they think it would best be carried out in their church.



ACTIVITY B:
Congregational
Survey

SURVEY QUESTIONS

[20 minutes]

Look through the survey questions and adapt them if necessary. Once the group have decided how they plan to undertake the survey and the questions have been agreed, the group will also need to decide:

- How the answers will be collated and by whom?
- How the information will be fed back at the next session?

You may decide to use the example summary sheet provided.

Session 2 (continued)

CLOSING REFLECTION

[5 minutes] Invite people to participate in a time of stillness and reflection. Read the words of the closing reflection and, if appropriate, ask people to respond in prayer.

Closing Reflection:

'You give them something to eat'. What kind of answer is that? It's up there with 'Let them eat cake!' Jesus have you seen the size of this crowd? How much money do you think we've got? Do you think we've been stashing it away while we've been wandering about the countryside with you? We don't have the resources. We don't have the money. We don't have the time (Jesus, it's late). We don't have the energy of people (there's only twelve of us).

We have a crowd of needs in our area but we don't have the right building, the support, the money to pay for a community worker – our minister is on quarter-time.

We have a crowd of opportunities in our area but we don't have the technology, the publicity, the youngsters with get-up-and-go. We don't have guitars.

We can't feed these people.

Jesus looks at us and asks 'How many loaves do you have? Go and see. Go and honestly see not what you haven't got but what you have. Sit down, gather in expectation, form new relationships.

'Even if it's the equivalent of five loaves and two fish. Place them in his hands, pray and let the sharing begin.'

Suzanne Nockels from 'Appreciating Church- A Practical Appreciative Inquiry Resource For Church Communities' edited by Tim Slack and Fiona Thomas, 2017, Wordscapes Ltd, page 115.



Session 2 (continued)



Case Study context:

Vicar has 'horrifying' statue of crucifixion removed from church

A statue of the crucifixion has been taken down from its perch on a church in Sussex because it was scaring local children and deterring worshippers, a vicar admitted today.

The Rev Ewen Souter, the vicar at St John's Church in Horsham, West Sussex, ordered the removal of the 10-foot sculpture of Jesus on the cross just before Christmas, branding it "unsuitable" and "a horrifying depiction of pain and suffering".

The 10ft resin sculpture, by Edward Bainbridge Copnall, a former president of the Royal Society of British Sculptors, will be replaced by a more "uplifting" stainless steel cross – to the dismay of more traditional parishioners.

Souter, formerly a cell biologist, said: "The crucifix expressed suffering, torment, pain and anguish. It was a scary image, particularly for children. Parents didn't want to walk past it with their kids, because they found it so horrifying.

"It wasn't a suitable image for the outside of a church wanting to welcome worshippers. In fact, it was a real put-off.

"We're all about hope, encouragement and the joy of the Christian faith. We want to communicate good news, not bad news, so we need a more uplifting and inspiring symbol than execution on a cross."

St John's Church was opened in 1963 and the crucifix was installed within a year. The sculpture was removed unceremoniously on a low-loader truck and delivered to nearby Horsham Museum, where it will be displayed

A long-standing member of the church, who asked not to be named, said: "The crucifix is the oldest and most famous symbol of the Christian church. Pulling it down and putting up something that would look more at home on the side of a flashy modern shopping centre is not the way to get more bums on seats.

"Next they'll be ripping out the pews and putting sofas in their place, or throwing out all the Bibles and replacing them with laptops. It's just not right."

Souter, who has been vicar at St John's since 2001, believes the modern new cross – designed by artist Angela Godfrey – will present "a positive message of hope" on the side of his church.

A spokesman at Horsham Museum said: "Thanks to the generosity of St John's we have been given the remarkable sculpture of Jesus on the Cross by Edward Bainbridge Copnall. The museum was keen to have the figure because it is a stunning example of Edward's ability and skill as a sculptor.

"Being made out of coal dust and resin it represents the cutting edge of material, as well as being a dramatic interpretation of a well-known image."

Source: Helen Pidd, *The Guardian*, 6th January 2009.

Session 3:

Reflecting on learning and community mapping

This session will consist of discussing the results from the congregational survey which will help the group to reflect on the most significant things they have learnt about their church.

The session is also designed to equip the group to develop its knowledge and understanding of the neighbourhood in which their church is based. This will start with a mapping exercise of the resources and assets already present in the area. This work will then be developed during and between the next two sessions.

SESSION OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this session, the group should have:

- Mapped out what they know about the resources present in the community.
- Reflected on what the mapping exercise reveals about the neighbourhood.
- Begun to reflect on statistical and demographic information about their neighbourhood.

EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES:

- Flip chart paper and pens
- Maps of parish or neighbourhood (1 between 2)
- Post-it notes
- Tea-lights and matches
- **Activity guide:** Neighbourhood mapping

SESSION 3:

Time: 70 minutes

OPENING PRAYER

[5 minutes]

Almighty and ever living God, we give thanks for our community and as we come together to understand our neighbourhood in a positive light, we ask that you will be with us and enable us to see this place through your eyes. Show us what is good about our community and how we might be a blessing to those around us. Amen.



SESSION INTRODUCTION

[5 minutes]

Explore the session objectives together.



FEEDBACK FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

[30 minutes]

Using the format that was agreed in the last session, the collated responses from the survey will be shared in the group. Split into small groups and ask the following questions: **(continued overleaf)**



Session 3 (continued)

FEEDBACK FROM THE CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY (continued)

- What was confirmed by the survey?
- What surprised you?
- What does this information tell you about the capacity of the church to undertake new activity?

Feedback after the discussion.

LEARNING SO FAR

[30 minutes]

As a group:

- What are the 5 or 6 most significant things you want to capture from discussions about the church and the local community so far?
- What would you like people in your church to learn from what you have done?

Make a list of the most significant learning points and keep these for the final session, when the group will be deciding what and how to feed back to their congregation.



NEIGHBOURHOOD MAPPING

[40 minutes]

Mapping exercise: Split the group into smaller groups. Ask them to gather around maps of the neighbourhood or parish and mark out all the local resources, housing, transport and other points of interest that they know about. These maps are drafts that could be turned into a visual resource for their church. Discuss with the group to see if there is any interest in doing this.

Feedback: After 15-20 minutes, gather back together as a large group and ask each group to feed back the things they have marked on the map. Mark all of these resources on one large map.

Ideas for further research online are listed in the Participants' Guide.



ACTIVITY C:
Neighbourhood
mapping

IDENTIFYING PARTNERS

[15 minutes]

As a large group, spend about 15 minutes looking at where there are potential partners.

- Can we build on or support initiatives which are already in existence?

CLOSING PRAYERS

[5 minutes]

You may like to gather around the large map, and ask people to put small tea lights on places they would like to pray for – their street, the primary school, the health centre, the factory...

Or alternatively you could do this alone, in pairs, or threes, around the small maps.

Lord you have given us this community to treasure and to tend, to love and to cherish; and to proclaim your good news through our words and works. We pray for all those who work here and live here, may we know how best to respond to needs, and to recognise and accept your generous gifts with grace. Amen.



Session 4:

Community listening

This session will build on the last, where the group mapped out the community, by equipping people to conduct a community consultation.

This will involve talking with and listening to people who work for local organisations. The group will have a chance to plan their priorities for this consultation, identify the organisations they want to talk to and think about the questions they would like to ask.

SESSION OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this session, the group should have:

- Reflected on the non-physical assets of the community.
- Identified issues in the neighbourhood that they want to investigate further.
- Designed their community consultation process.
- Decided how to record their findings.

EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES:

- Flip chart paper and pens
- **Activity guide:** Community survey

SESSION 4:

Time: 90 minutes

OPENING PRAYER

[5 minutes]

Spirit of God, strong as the wind, and gentle as the dove. Bring your healing peace to our community and disturb us where we are too comfortable. Bring to our minds all that is of your kingdom, and where your will is not being done, give us your wisdom and strength. May your kingdom come and your will be done. Amen



SESSION INTRODUCTION

[5 minutes]

Explore the session objectives together.



NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSETS

[20 minutes]

Reflection: ask people (in small groups?) to spend about 10 minutes considering any non-physical assets that may exist in the neighbourhood, including social networks, key people, informal associations, community groups etc. Add these to the existing neighbourhood map of assets.



Session 4 (continued)

IDENTIFYING KEY ISSUES

[30 minutes]

Re-visit previous sessions and look at maps, collages etc. produced so far. In a large group, spend 15 minutes identifying the key priorities that the group would like to investigate further. These should be based on the issues and interests that have arisen from the neighbourhood mapping that has been done. Priorities could include things like education, childcare or transport. List the agreed priority areas on flipchart paper.

PLANNING THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

[30 minutes]



ACTIVITY D: Community survey

Identifying organisations: Work with the whole group to create a list of organisations that people would like to include in their consultation. It may be useful to link these to the priorities identified above. Using this list, decide who will contact and visit each organisation.

Planning the interviews/conversations: Go through the reflection on guided conversations with the group (page 18). The group will then need to talk about how they plan to conduct these interviews. In making these plans, the group might find it helpful to go through these questions:

1. How can we explain what we are doing and why we are doing it in a way that is easy for people to understand and would make them feel comfortable? (Encourage the group to come up with an agreed introduction.)
2. How should we conduct these interviews in a way that gains people's trust and helps to build positive relationships? (Remind the group of the discussion and principles they agreed in Session 3: 'Preparing to Listen to Others'.)
3. What information do we want to gather about those organisations and so what questions do we need to ask people? (Encourage the group to use the sample survey as a template list of questions, but to see whether there are any other things they would like to ask.)
4. How will we record the information we collect, during and after the interviews? (Again, encourage the group to use Appendix 16 as a template record form, but see if they would like to record information in a different way.)

The consultation can continue after KYCKYN sessions have finished.

PREPARING FOR THE NEXT SESSION

[5 minutes]

Before the next session, the group will need to:

- Contact and visit organisations, and record the information gathered using the agreed method.
- Prepare to feedback what they have found out in the next session.

CLOSING PRAYERS

[5 minutes]

Lord, you sent your disciples out, to preach and to heal, taking nothing but their faith in you. Send us out in the power of your Spirit, to hear and to heal, to listen and to learn. May we follow you wherever we go, with the fire of your love in our hearts. Amen.

Session 4 (continued)



Guided Conversations – Advantages and Disadvantages:

Advantages

- Relationships and trust are easier to establish, and barriers of culture easier to overcome.
- You have a chance to allay suspicion and explain why you are doing the profiling.
- Community groups can feel valued because the Church has taken the trouble to make a personal visit and to listen.
- Promises of confidentiality can be agreed and trust established.
- Feelings can be expressed and understanding shared, and a better picture can be achieved because of this.
- This method can produce very helpful views and a real openness to working with the church.

Disadvantages

- It needs plenty of careful preparation.
- Visits take time, for you and for the people you meet.
- It is not so easy to weigh up the views and feelings that come up in conversation as it is with written answers.
- You can lose the sense of direction if there is no 'shape' to guide the conversation.
- If trust is difficult to achieve, the conversation may be 'guarded' and honest opinions may not be shared.
- There is no anonymity to protect the person who is visited.
- This method relies on the visitor being fair minded and able to enter into the other person's frame of reference. Your prejudices may weaken your understanding of what the other person says.

Session 5:

Community listening

This final session will allow the group to reflect on the community consultation that has been carried out since the previous session and all that has been learnt over the duration of the course.

The group will share reports on their interviews and then discuss the next steps for their church's engagement with its community.

SESSION OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this session, the group should have:

- Listened to and reflected on the interview reports.
- Reviewed their learning and the resources that have been created.
- Started to think about the next steps for the church's engagement with its community.
- Considered how these steps can be taken forward.

EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES:

- Flip chart paper and pens

SESSION 5:

Time: 2 hours

OPENING PRAYER

[5 minutes]

Spirit of God, make us open to others in listening, generous to others in giving and sensitive to others in praying; through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.



SESSION INTRODUCTION

[5 minutes]

Explore the session objectives together.



NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSETS

[50 minutes]

Feedback: Invite each group member to (briefly) share what they have learnt from their interviews. This feedback may include some of the following:

- Key themes and issues raised by interviewees
- Their own impressions and feelings arising out of their visits

Discussion: After each member has spoken, use the reflection questions to reflect on what the group has collectively learnt from the interviews. (Summarise on flipchart)



Session 5 (continued)

FEEDING BACK TO THE CHURCH

[40 minutes]

Remind everyone of the agreed key priorities from the last session.



Group work: In pairs, ask people to spend 20 minutes discussing what they would like to feed back of all they have learnt to their congregation. Potential things to consider may include (but will not be restricted to) opportunities for establishing links or partnerships with other organisations in order to:

- Do something new
- Support something which already exists
- Celebrate and communicate the valuable assets that exist in our neighbourhood.

See [page 21](#) for suggested questions for discussion.

Feedback: Ask each pair to feed back their conclusions and then compile a list of the 5 or 6 most significant points the group would like to feed back to the church. Then ask the group to think about how they would like to feed these points back to the church – would it be best to deliver a presentation in a church service, to put something online, to develop a leaflet? [See page 21 for further guidance.](#)

- Who will be responsible for carrying things forward?

If necessary, the facilitator may wish to support the group during that final stage of preparing to feed back to the church.

EVALUATION

[15 minutes]

Recalling Hopes and Fears: In session 1, you asked group members to write down their Hopes and Fears for the course and put these in sealed envelopes. Ask the group to bring these out again and reflect individually on these questions:



- Were my hopes realised?
- Were my fears unfounded?
- What have I learnt about what I can do to help my neighbourhood flourish?

Encourage group members to share their thoughts with others in the group.

CLOSING PRAYERS

[5 minutes]

You may want to ask people to bring an object which signifies something about their neighbourhood/community, which they value about it. Ask people to say a few words about the object and why they brought it, and then to put it next to a candle or cross, as a kind of prayer of thanksgiving.



Creator God, you are doing a new thing, making a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. For you are with us, and we are called by your name, created for your glory, formed and made in your image. May our whole world reflect your light, and all that is created sing your praises. For we are precious in your eyes, and loved beyond measure. May our community know your presence and your love, and may we be faithful witnesses to you and to your Son Jesus, who died for us, and may we live in the power of your Spirit. Amen.

Session 5 (continued)



Questions to consider:

1. In what ways were the organisations you visited contributing to your vision of a flourishing neighbourhood?
2. What did you find that was positive and needs to be celebrated?
3. What did you find that was fragile and that the church might be able to help to address?
4. How was the church perceived by the representatives of the organisations you spoke to?
5. What can be celebrated about how the church is perceived?
6. What was difficult or painful to hear and why?
7. Are there things that can be learned from this which might be useful in the future?

What will we feed back?

In pairs, discuss what you would like to feed back of all they have learnt to the congregation.

Consider including opportunities for establishing links or partnerships with other organisations in order to:

- Do something new
- Support something which already exists.
- Celebrate and communicate the valuable assets that exist in our neighbourhood.

Feed back your conclusions and, all together, write a list of the 5/6 most significant points the group would like to feed back to the church.

How will we feed it back?

Think about how you would like to feed these points back to the church – would it be best to:

- Deliver a presentation in a church service?
- Put something online?
- Develop a leaflet?

Who will be responsible for carrying things forward?

If necessary, the facilitator may wish to support the group during that final stage of preparing to feed back to the church.